

Ind. Mission Items

Remember the time for our next mission offering, Easter Sunday. Bear in mind that Brother Ditch is to give us one half of his time beginning April 1, so our expense will be naturally increased.

Let each pastor reply so I can make a list of churches and pastors who are willing to aid in this work.

As many pastors serve more than one congregation will you not take up the offering one Sunday nearest Easter?

Let each head of an auxiliary organization see that your society give something even tho it be but a unite.

In my next I will give a list of the pastors who have responded and the churches they serve.

It may be you are isolated from the church and so desire to give an individual offering, if so improve the opportunity Easter Sunday.

Send all remittances to secretary of State Board. Give us your united support in the work. Let me hear from you at once.

WM. MILLER.

Sec. M. B. of B. C. of Ind.

North Manchester, Ind.

The Sunday School

LESSON 1—APRIL 1, 1900

The Beatitudes—Matthew 4 : 25—5 : 12

Golden Text—Blessed are the pure in heart : for they shall see God.—Matthew 5 : 8.

Lesson Thought.—Unlike that of the world, the blessedness which Christ promises, depends not on environment, but on the condition of the heart.

Time.—In the summer of A. D. 28.

Place.—According to tradition the place was near the west coast of the Sea of Galilee, two or three miles from the sea, and seven south-west from Capernaum, on a hill called the Horns of Hattin.

Persons.—Jesus was now between 31 and 32 years old ; John the Baptist 32 years old, imprisoned in the Castle Macherus.

Home Readings

Luke 6 : 17 36 ; Matt. 11 : 6 ; 13 : 16 ; 16 : 17 ; 24 : 46 ; Luke 12 : 37 ; 14 : 13, 14 ; John 20 : 29 ; Rom. 4 : 7 ; Rev. 14 : 13 ; 20 : 6 ; 22 : 14.

Lesson Text

25 And there followed him great multitudes from Galilee and Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond Jordan

1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into the mountain : and when he had sat down, his disciples came unto him :

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying,

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are they that mourn : for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek : for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness : for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful : for they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart : for they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers : for they shall be called sons of God.

10 Blessed are they that have been persecuted for

righteousness' sake : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad : for great is your reward in heaven : for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Lesson Links

Our last lesson in last quarter before the *Review* was about Matthew's call to be a disciple and follower of Jesus. After this event Christ seems to have gone about Galilee teaching and healing as usual. Two events are recorded in Scripture between the Call of Matthew and this lesson, the one is Christ's words on the Sabbath drawn out by the Pharisees' criticism of his disciples for pulling and eating grain as they walked thru the fields on the Sabbath ; the second, is Christ's healing of the man with the withered hand.

The Lesson Story

The fame of Jesus was constantly increasing. Multitudes thronged him for healing. His journey thru Galilee had made him known to a large part of the people of that province. And from the first verse of our lesson, it seems that his fame had reached even to the Decapolis beyond the Lake of Galilee and even down the east side of Jordan to the Dead Sea, for it says, "And there followed him great multitudes from Galilee and Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea, and beyond Jordan "

The Previous Night

But all the night before Christ had spent in prayer upon the mountains north of Capernaum. He had an important piece of business on hand the next day, hence, he prepared for it by prayer. This important business was *the appointment of his apostles* and, *the proclamation of his kingdom*, called

The Sermon on the Mount

In the morning, as he came down from the mountains, he saw already gathered on its sides great numbers of people.

This was his season of popularity. But the time came when he was almost alone.

When the sight of this crowd met him he ascended the side where he could sit down and still see the crowd and be heard of them. Sitting down, as was the custom of teachers of that day he began a most marvelous discourse.

The First Beatitude

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." That is, those who are not self righteous, are not trusting their own power to be what they desire, are discouraged because of their own failures, are blessed, because they are in a position where God can help them. God cannot bless men until they realize that they cannot obtain the desired blessing themselves.

The Second Beatitude

"Blessed are they that mourn ; for they shall be comforted." True for those who mourn for loved ones, if they will but trust

Christ and obey I Pet. 5 : 7. However, those, probably more strictly, are meant who mourn over their own and others' sins and failures. If you find a Christian who does not mourn over his own short comings and desire to do better, it is pretty safe to fear that such a one is not striving after righteousness in Christ as faithfully as he should. Before we are in Christ striving for righteousness begets only pride or despair, but after we are in him we are not a true disciple unless we strive for the full stature of manhood in Christ Jesus."

Again, a Christian who is not mourning over the sin of the world, does not desire a better state of society than we now have is either woefully ignorant or has not the love of Christ in his heart. He cannot really pray, "Thy kingdom come ; thy will be done on earth as in heaven."

Those that mourn over their own failures and sins shall be comforted in the assurance that in Christ we "can do all things thru him that strengthens" us. Those who mourn over the world's sin shall be comforted in the assurance that Jesus has overcome the world and that there is coming, "a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness."

Third Beatitude

"Blessed are the meek ; for they shall inherit the earth." Christ puts a blessing on those whom the world despises. But he revealed a great fact hidden from the sight of men and revealed only by himself, that the meek, those who do not resist evil, but suffer it for Christ's sake, shall yet conquer this old earth. This is the reason Jesus taught non-resistance of evil. Matt. 5 : 39. And tho slow may seem the process, yet in the world's anxious desire to abolish war and in men's seeking for other means of the settlement of wrongs we can see the beginning of the realization of this beatitude pronounced so long ago. "God resisteth the proud and giveth grace unto the humble."

How blessed then is the ordinance of feet washing which Jesus instituted just before he went away, which so beautifully teaches this meekness and humility, which shall yet inherit the earth.

Fourth Beatitude

"Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness ; for they shall be filled." Hunger and thirst are two of the most painful demands of the human body. Jesus uses such words in regard to seeking after righteousness. Very few were those who thus desired righteousness in Christ's day. And we sometimes think that they are few even today. But few or many, Christ gives them the emphatic promise, "they shall be filled." Those that desire to see righteousness in themselves and in the world, even as much as they desire food and drink, have this promise. Do you desire righteousness that much? The reason some people do not become Christians, is because they do not desire Christ's righteousness in themselves